(iv) the duty-free import of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items is allowed to garment exporters. This can be upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.

(v) The entire textiles sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty in 2004-05. In 2005-06 Central Value-aided Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.

(vi) To facilitate import of state of the art textiles machinery for manufacturing internationally competitive product in post quota regime, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% in 2005-06, except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attract Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%.

(vii) Government launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textiles sector at concessional rates of interest.

Time bound programme for development of textile industries

†2635. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Govenment has taken or proposes to take any steps to chalk out a time-bound programme for the development of textile industries particularly the handloom industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (c) The development of the textile industry is sought to be achieved through the introduction of an appropriate policy regime and also by the implementation of various plan schemes within the overall framework of the Annual Plans and the Five Year Plans. The strategic thrust of the plan schemes is on technology upgradation, enhancement of productivity, improvement of quality, product, diversification, strengthening of raw material base, increasing exports maximizing employment opportunities and integrated human resource development. The Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages an allocation of Rs. 14000.00 crore at current prices for the various schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Textiles. The flagship schemes of the Ministry of Textiles such as Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Scheme of Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) etc. are designed in such a way as to encourage substantial private investment in the textile sector which would go a long way in modernizing the textile industry and in improving its global competitiveness. The plan schemes that are being implemented for the development of the handloom sector include Diversified Handloom Development Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme and Integrated Handloom Development Scheme.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.